

CABINET - TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2024 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

JC Spanswick
HM Williams

N Farr

W R Goode

J Gebbie

Present Virtually

JPD Blundell

Apologies for Absence

None

Officers:

Alex Rawlin
Rachel Keepins
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson
Mark Shephard
Lindsay Harvey
Michael Pitman
Anya Richards

Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager
Democratic Services Manager
Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director - Communities
Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Chief Executive
Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Group Manager - Communications and Public Affairs

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Declarations of Interest

None

330. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the minutes of the 12/03/2024 as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

331. Outcome of the Consultation on the Draft Strategic Equality Plan Objectives 2024 - 2028

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which informed Cabinet of the outcome of the draft Strategic Equality Plan objectives 2024-2028 consultation and to seek approval of the Strategic Equality Plan and Objectives 2024-2028 for publication.</p> <p>She explained that the Plan had been developed to demonstrate the Council's commitment to meeting the Equality Act 2010, the Plan was attached at Appendix B. The consultation report attached at Appendix A set out in detail the views expressed by those who participated. She highlighted the stats relating to the responses from various sources including social media and the GovDelivery model.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing welcomed the report and stated that it was important that we engaged with our workforce as the majority of them would also be residents of Bridgend. She asked various questions around how the information was gathered from various groups as indicated in 3.1 of the report, these were answered by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change as well as the Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Housing, Planning and Regeneration stated that in a news report yesterday it was noted that a Minister who is dubbed Westminster's 'Minister for Common Sense' wished to ban rainbow lanyards and staff groups should be left at the door of employment. He was very proud to be part of an organization that did not support this and rather supported and embraced diversity among its staff.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet noted the outcome of the consultation and approve the Strategic Equality Plan and Objectives 2024-2028 attached as Appendix B for publication.</p>
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332. Fees and Charges Policy

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which sought approval from Cabinet for an updated Fees and Charges Policy.</p> <p>She explained that as part of the budget setting process for the years ahead the Council committed to the following principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council will seek to recover the cost of services via fees and charges where it is able to do so. <p>As such all services were encouraged to aim for full cost recovery, except where there was a conscious decision not to, consistent with Council priorities.</p> <p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change stated that the last financial year proved difficult particularly with the inflation levels fluctuating drastically. This has prompted a change in the Policy to provide a more flexible approach to cost recovery. The Fees and Charges Policy has been updated and a tracked changes version attached at Appendix A, with a clean version attached at Appendix B.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Resources stated that it was a vital part of the Council's income standing at around £40 million. He explained that while full cost recovery was a starting point, legislation would be guiding much of what we do, this would include social care fees and planning fees among others which were out of the control of BCBC.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the updated Fees and Charges Policy at Appendix B.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

333. Renewal of the Regional Internal Audit Service Partnership Agreement

Decision Made	The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which sought approval from Cabinet to the proposals listed at section 1 of the report.
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	<p>She explained that in January 2024 the host authority, Vale of Glamorgan, was notified by RCTCBC that the Council had decided not to continue in the Partnership from April 2024. Despite RCTCBC not being involved with the Partnership moving forward, the management of the service has determined that this will not hinder achieving the Partnership's ambitions and objectives.</p> <p>She added that the remaining s151 Officers have suggested that the Partnership should move forward on a longer term agreement basis and the option considered is a continual agreement to include a formal partner review at least every five years. These proposals were discussed and agreed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 18th April 2024</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Resources stated that in Bridgend we have had success with regional services where there is a synergy and an improvement in service. The track record between Bridgend Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council has been very successful and wished to continue this arrangement. He added that any other Local Authorities who wished to join this service should get in contact.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Cabinet approved:</p> <p>The renewal of the existing Regional Internal Audit Service (RIAS) Partnership Agreement, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council continuing as host authority, to reinforce business resilience.</p> <p>That three of the original partners continue with the arrangement and sign a new Partnership Agreement - the partners being Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil Councils.</p> <p>That the Partnership Agreement runs continually with a formal partner review built in every five years.</p> <p>The proposal to allow additional partners to join the RIAS as equal partners subject to RIAS Board approval.</p> <p>That the approval of the final terms of agreement for the RIAS is delegated to the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

334. Terms Of Reference For Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education (SACRE)/Standing Advisory Council (On Religion Value And Ethics) (SAC)

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People presented a report which informed Cabinet that ratification is needed for the revised terms of reference for Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)/Standing Advisory Council (on Religion Value and Ethics) (SAC) ((refer to Appendix 1)</p> <p>He explained that the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 Act sets out 'Religion, Values and Ethics' (RVE) as one of the mandatory subjects which spans the 3 to 16 learning continuum. Until the roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales is completed in all schools and settings, there is a need to have both SACRE and SAC. SACRE will completely cease to exist once the Curriculum for Wales has completed its roll-out</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet noted the content of this report and ratifies the revised terms of reference.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

335. Proposed Changes In Council Requirements Regarding Cultural Services

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing presented a report which identified the proposed reductions in Council investment into a range of cultural services which is delivered through the partnership with Awen Cultural Trust (Awen) and the related reductions in services that will need to be considered in order to achieve the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) budget reduction proposals approved by Council when the budget was approved on the 28th February 2024.</p> <p>Table 1 provided the opening hours and footfall for 2022-23 and 2023-24, while Table 2 provided information on some of the headline performance figures for the past two financial Years. Further details were at section 3 of the report.</p> <p>She highlighted that the change in operating hours that had been proposed could go against the changes within the Strategy. Therefore a proposed amendment was made to the recommendations at section 9 of the report.</p>
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	<p>The Deputy leader expressed her concerns on the books on wheels services and when we carry out the equality impact assessment it will highlight various issues that will need to be addressed.</p> <p>She stated that last year herself and Cllr Farr met with St Brides Minor Community Councillor and they did not wish continue paying for the books on wheels service as they were struggling with the cost, therefore this will also have an impact on budgets.</p> <p>She added that utilizing a digital resource with regards to the libraries may also be beneficial.</p> <p>The Leader added that it was important to undertake the consultation and reflect on the responses accordingly.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the revised recommendation as set out below:</p> <p>To approve the issue of the immediate legal notices required to enact contract changes with Awen to remove the subsidy to Bridgend Youth Theatre and reduce the book fund by £50,000 in 2024-25 and to progress the required public engagement in relation to the development of the strategy for community hubs, library and cultural services in the County Borough which will be the subject of a future Cabinet report.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

336. Proposed Dates for meetings of Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which sought approval for the programme of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting for the municipal year 2024–2025.</p> <p>She highlighted the proposed dates as set out in section 3 of the report and stated that these would be placed in calendars subject to the approval of the Programme of Meeting report at full Council.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Cabinet approved the programme of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting, as outlined in paragraph 3.1 of this report.</p>
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337. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

Members of the Cabinet gave words of considerable praise to Councillor Huw David, as this was his last meeting of Cabinet before stepping down as Leader of the Council.

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 15:40